

**December 2019 Spokane Area Diversity/Cultural Events**

**National Universal Human Rights Month**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN in 1948 as a response to the Nazi holocaust and to set a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations, rich and poor alike, are to be measured.

The United Nations has declared an **International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women**. From November 25th through December 10th, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is to raise public awareness and mobilizing people everywhere to bring about change. The 2019 theme for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is ‘Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape’. These dates were chosen to commemorate the three Mirabal sisters, who were political activists under Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961) who ordered their brutal assassinate in 1960. **Join the campaign! You can participate in person or on social media via the following hashtags:** Use the hashtags: #GenerationEquality #orangetheworld and #spreadtheword. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>.

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**As Grandmother Taught: Women, Tradition and Plateau Art**

Coiled and twined basketry and beaded hats, pouches, bags, dolls, horse regalia, baby boards, and dresses alongside vintage photos of Plateau women wearing or alongside their traditional, handmade clothing and objects, with works by Leanne Campbell, HollyAnna CougarTracks DeCoteau Littlebull and Bernadine Phillips.

**Dates: August 2018 through December 2019**

Time: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Location: [Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture](#), 2316 W. First Ave

Cost: \$10.00 adult, \$8.00 seniors, \$5.00 children ages 6-17, \$8.00 college students with ID.

For more information visit their website at <https://www.northwestmuseum.org> or call 509.456.3931.

**Mount St. Helens: Critical Memory**

Film, photography, recordings and firsthand accounts examining how the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption advanced humankind’s understanding and perceptions of volcanoes.

**Dates: December 21, 2019 through July 1, 2020**

Time: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Location: Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, 2316 W. First Ave

Cost: \$10.00 adult, \$9.00 military, \$8.00 seniors/college students, \$5.00 children ages 6-17.

For more information visit their website at <https://www.northwestmuseum.org> or call 509.456.3931.

**“Sacred Encounters: Father De Smet and the Indians of the Rocky Mountain West” Exhibit**

The exhibit tells the story of how Jesuit missionaries (Father De Smet) came to the interior Northwest at the invitation of the Coeur d’ Alene and Salish tribes and the profound effects this sacred encounter had on both cultures.

**Date: Open, no end date at this time**

Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily April through September, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm October through March, (closed holidays)

Location: Old Mission State Park, Cataldo, ID (I-90, exit 39 – 60 miles east of Spokane)

Cost: \$5.00 park entrance fee, exhibit \$5.00 per person/\$10.00 per family.

For more information visit their website at <https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/parks/coeur-d-alenes-old-mission>.

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**Can You Queer Me Now?**

**Day: Tuesday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Hear voices directly from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Questioning community right here in the Inland Northwest. You will hear more about current events, local groups, and perspectives directly from the queer youth community. Hosted by Ian Sullivan on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Democracy Now****Day: Monday-Friday**

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am & 5:00 pm-6:00 pm

A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. Link <https://www.democracynow.org/>. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Democracy Now! Headlines in Spanish****Date: Saturday**

Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

*Democracy Now!* is a national, daily, independent, award winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: [www.kyrs.org](http://www.kyrs.org) or [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org).

**Detention****Day: Monday**

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Variety music/talk show for teens by teens. This show is produced by the students of West Valley City School. Hosted by Kade, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Dragonflies on Thin Air****Day: Sunday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One of the few elementary age children's radio shows produced by kids for kids in the country. The program is fun and educational for children and adults, and includes a mix of jokes, music, guests, stories, poetry, trivia and more. Hosted by [Trevor, Zoe, Eva and Selena](#), KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Irish Music on Tap****Day: Wednesday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Music from Ireland, Scotland and England. Hosted by Don and Rick, on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Latin Lounge****Day: Monday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

A wide spectrum of Latin music. Hosted by "Corazon" on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Layali Arabia****Day: Saturday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Arabic songs from a multitude of different genres to come out of the Arab World. Hosted by Rahmi on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Queens of Noise**

**Day: Wednesday**

Time: 8:00 pm-10:00 pm

You will hear best in female vocalist/musicians. Hosted by “Queen of Mean” and “Luscious Duchess”, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**QueerSounds**

**Day: Thursday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

QueerSounds is radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events and forums. Hosted by bob, KYRS FM 92.3 or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>. Join the hosts on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/qsounds](http://www.facebook.com/qsounds), or email them at [queersounds@kyrs.org](mailto:queersounds@kyrs.org).

**The Persian Hour**

**Day: Saturday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

The Persian Hour’s consists of a variety of Iranian music from hip hop to traditional, Jazz, blues, rock and roll and the usual. Also, they will share stories, recipes, and interviews. Hosted by Shahrokh, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**The Science of Poverty**

**Day: Saturday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Explores the topic of poverty. Hosted by Jesse Quintana, official Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/TheScienceOfPoverty>, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Sounds of Science**

**Day: Sunday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Lively discussion of what’s happening in the world of science, from how it is affecting our lives to the ways we are shaping it. Hosted by Chole, Blake, and Amaya. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Women’s Media Center Live**

**Day: Wednesday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

*WMC Live with Robin Morgan* tackles today’s hottest topics; whether it be sex, politics, art, humor, religion, culture, or news stories that go unreported, each is engaged regularly, insightfully, and intelligently. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

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**Tsinta Mani Choling Buddhist Meditation Center**

Tibetan Buddhist teachings and meditation with Lama Lakshey Zangpo.

**Dates: Sunday, December 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2019**

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Location: [Tsinta Mani Choling](http://www.tsintamani.org), 2311 N. Monroe St.

Cost: Free

For more information, visit <https://tsintamani.org/>.

### **World Aids Day**

Spokane Aids Network will host its annual World AIDS Day commemoration, view the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

**Date: Sunday, December 1, 2019**

Time: noon – 7:00 pm

Location: Washington Cracker Building, 304 W Pacific Ave

Cost: Free, please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the SAN Holiday Bags.

For more information call 509.844.1758 or visit [www.spokaneaids.wixsite.com/sannw](http://www.spokaneaids.wixsite.com/sannw).

### **KSPS Every Child Reads Storytime**

Reading, interactive stories, songs, crafts, and free take-home educational resources. This month's story time features "Have Yourself a Furry Little Christmas."

**Date: Monday, December 2, 2019**

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 am

Location: KSPS Studio, 3911 S Regal St.

Cost: Free, must register at website below

For more information visit <http://ksp.org/storytime>.

### **Christmas Lights Fest**

Complimentary appetizers, live performances and a magical Christmas Light Fest at the Mirabeau Park Hotel Courtyard

**Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019**

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N Sullivan, Spokane Valley

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information contact [charity@thefamilyguide.org](mailto:charity@thefamilyguide.org).

### **Tibetan Meditation Class with Lama Lakshey**

**Dates: Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2019**

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: [Tsinta Mani Choling](#), 2311 N. Monroe St.

Cost: Free

For more information, visit <https://tsintamani.org/>.

### **Community Cooking Class: Holiday Party Appetizers**

**Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019**

Time: 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Location: Second Harvest, 1234 E Front Ave

Cost: Free, must register

For more information call 509.534.6678 or visit their website at <https://secondharvestkitchen.org/>.

### **Action with Impact in NE Spokane**

Strategy Team Planning to support thriving children, youth, and families

**Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019**

Time: 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Northeast Community Center, 400 N Cook Street

Cost: Free

For more information email [jray@necommunitycenter.com](mailto:jray@necommunitycenter.com), or call/text 509.209.7227. Food and childcare provided. Must RSVP for childcare.

**Diverse Voices Writing Group****Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019**

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Spark Central, 1214 W Summit Parkway

Cost: Free

For more information call 509.279.0299 or visit their website at <http://www.sparkwestcentral.org/>.**Winterfest: Caroling Competition and Scandinavian Christmas**Meet and greet representatives from the Scandinavian Community, live performances and cash prizes (1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> place) caroling contest winners.**Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Northtown Mall

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information contact [charity@thefamilyguide.org](mailto:charity@thefamilyguide.org).**Gingerbread Build-off**

Annual Christmas concert and sing-along with the historic Wurlitzer pipe organ.

**Date: Sunday, December 8, 2019**

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, building is from 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Location: Northern Quest Casino Pavilion, 100 N Hayford Ed, airway Heights

Cost: \$7.00 for kit ticket sold until 1:00 pm. Entry to Gingerbread build is free

For more information visit <http://www.sfntos.org>.**Holiday on Pipes**

Annual Christmas concert and sing-along with the historic Wurlitzer pipe organ.

**Date: Sunday, December 8, 2019**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 9004 N Country Homes Blvd

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <http://www.sfntos.org>.**Hispanic Business / Professional Association (HBPA) Monthly Membership Meeting**

Sabes Que: Fernanda Mazcot and Larry Valadez, 2020 Census

**Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (6:00 pm- social/networking and dinner, at 6:30 speaker/program)

Location: Fiesta Mexicana, 1227 S Grand Blvd

Cost: Free, appetizers will be provided to those attending

For more information regarding the meeting, contact [hbpaspokane@gmail.com](mailto:hbpaspokane@gmail.com).**Holiday Nights at Gaiser Conservatory**

The Gaiser Conservatory is turned into a Christmas wonderland with over 40,000 lights covering the plants.

**Dates: December 13, 2019 – December 22, 2019**

Time: noon – 7:30 pm

Location: Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory, 4 W 21<sup>st</sup> Street

Cost: Free

For more information visit <http://www.thefriendsofmanito.org/event/holiday-lights/> or call 509.625.6692. Best viewing is after dark.

### **Spokane Pride Holiday Party**

There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, a DJ and dancing, a silent auction, and announcements for Spokane Pride 2020.

**Dates: Friday, December 13, 2019**

Time: Doors open at 6:30 pm, event starts at 7:00 pm

Location: Davenport Hotel, Marie Antoinette Ball Room, 10 South Post Street

Cost: \$15.00 plus \$1.75 processing fee.

For more information email [info@outspokane.org](mailto:info@outspokane.org)

### **Winterfest: Feliz Navidad**

Find out why the Philippines and Mexico celebrate the holiday season starting in September and ending around January 6<sup>th</sup>, making it the longest Christmas celebration in the world.

**Date: Saturday, December 14, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Northtown Mall

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information contact [charity@thefamilyguide.org](mailto:charity@thefamilyguide.org).

### **1st Annual Spokane Family Christmas Pow Wow**

Enjoy fun, dancing, contests, special appearances, and chance to win some awesome gifts for adults and kids. This is a non-contest pow wow, kids are not required to be in regalia to participate.

**Date: Saturday, December 14, 2019**

Time: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Spokane Downtown Public Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 906 W main Ave

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information contact Jerry Crowshoe at [jerrycrowshoe@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrycrowshoe@yahoo.com) or 509.362.2178 or Shane Garcia at 509.590.5044.

### **Only A Baby Came**

Singing Nuns' annual Christmas Evermore concert.

**Date: Saturday, December 14, 2019**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Mount St. Michaels, 8500 N. St. Michaels Road

Cost: \$15.00

For more information visit <http://www.SingingNuns.com>.

### **Only A Baby Came**

Singing Nuns' annual Christmas Evermore concert.

**Date: Sunday, December 15, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Mount St. Michaels, 8500 N. St. Michaels Road

Cost: \$15.00

For more information visit <http://www.SingingNuns.com>.

### **Affiniti Celtic Christmas**

A Celtic Christmas

**Date: Sunday, December 15, 2019**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Bing Crosby Theatre, 901 W Sprague Ave.

Cost: \$22.00

For more information visit <http://www.bingcrosbytheater.com/events/1613/affiniti-a-celtic-christmas>.

**NAACP General Membership Meeting****Date: Monday, December 16, 2019**

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Community Building, 35 W Main Ave

Cost: Free, meeting open to everyone

For more information contact [spokanenaacp@gmail.com](mailto:spokanenaacp@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook at<https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naacp/>.**Carl Maxey: A Fighting Life Documentary**

Benefit screening for the Carl Maxey Center

**Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Magic Lantern Theatre

Cost: Free, donations accepted

For more information contact Shar at [slichty@pjals.org](mailto:slichty@pjals.org). Sponsored by PAJALS Racial Justice Committee.**Baha'i Fireside Discussions**

The Baha'i faith believes the world's major religions emerged from a common, divine foundation and that all the Prophets of God have been the agents of a single unfolding plan.

**Date: Thursday, December 19, 2019**

Time: 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Location: Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E Main Ave, Spokane Valley

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information call 509.893.6400 or visit [facebook.com/spokanebahais](https://facebook.com/spokanebahais).**Winterfest: SantaCon and K-Pop at Northtown Mall**

Dress up, wearing a Santa hat alone is not enough. You don't have to dress like Santa, but the theme is red. Cash prizes for the top 3 plus swag bags for all contest participants.

**Date: Saturday, December 21, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Northtown Mall

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information contact [charity@thefamilyguide.org](mailto:charity@thefamilyguide.org).**A Campy Christmas Fundraiser (Family Event)**

Campy Christmas themed drag show fundraiser. There will be a dessert table, snacks, beverage station with water, punch, coffee and coco in addition to raffle and silent auction items.

**Date: Saturday, December 21, 2019**

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, show at 6:30 pm

Location: Corbin Senior Activity Center, 827 W Cleveland Ave

Cost: \$8.00, kids 10 and under free

Sponsored by PPFLAG Spokane and OutSpokane.

**Daughters of Norway**

A club to unite women who wish to preserve their Nordic heritage by exploring its rich history, culture, folk arts and native languages. Meetings involve sharing Nordic tales, cooking, arts and tips on retracing family roots.

**Date: Saturday, December 28, 2019** (fourth Saturday of each month)

Time: 10:00 am

Location: TBD

For more information visit [www.daughtersofnorwayfreya.org](http://www.daughtersofnorwayfreya.org).

**Winterfest: A Celebration of New Year Traditions**

See how various cultures ring in the new year. Meet and greet representatives from local cultural organizations, live performances, and sample holiday cookies from around the world.

**Date: Saturday, December 28, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Northtown Mall

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information contact [charity@thefamilyguide.org](mailto:charity@thefamilyguide.org).

**Winterfest: Kwanzaa Festival**

Kwanzaa is a week-long annual celebration held in the U.S. and other nations of the African diaspora in the Americas to honor African heritage in the African-American culture.

**Date: Sunday, December 29, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: Northtown Mall

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information contact [charity@thefamilyguide.org](mailto:charity@thefamilyguide.org).

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**Save the Date**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Viva Vino & Brew (Scholarship Fundraiser)**

Food provided by De Leon’s, music, silent and live auction to be followed by dancing,

**Date: Saturday, February 1, 2020**

Location: Shriner’s Event Center, 7217 W Westbow Blvd (Geiger Exit off I=90)

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$45.00 HBPA member, \$50.00 non-member

For more information email [hbpassokane@gmail.com](mailto:hbpassokane@gmail.com).

**WSU College of Education’s 16th Annual International Globalization, Diversity and Education Conference.**

Theme “(Re)Imagining Education for Liberation”

**Dates: February 27-28, 2020**

Location: Northern Quest Casino & Resort, 100 North Hayford Road, Airway Heights,

Cost: see their website

For more information, visit their website at <http://education.wsu.edu/globalization/>

If you know of diversity/cultural events open to the public that you would like added to the monthly calendar, please e-mail Yvonne C. Montoya Zamora at [yvonnecmz04@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnecmz04@gmail.com) with event details. For general events visit [www.visitspokane.com](http://www.visitspokane.com) or [www.spokane7.com/](http://www.spokane7.com/).

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**December 2019 International/National Cultural Celebrations**

**December 1 Rosa Parks Day – USA**

Rosa Parks was arrested in 1955 for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to a year-long boycott of the city’s buses and the end of segregation on municipal buses throughout the southern U.S.

- December 1**      **First Sunday of Advent – Christian**  
 The Christian church year begins with Advent (from the Latin adventus meaning “coming” or “arrival”) which is also a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- World AIDS Day – UN**  
 This day is designed by the World Health Organization and the United Nations to increase awareness and education of AIDS. Today, over 41 million people are living with HIV/AIDS.
- Independence Day – Portugal**  
 Became independent again in 1640 from Spanish rule that began in 1580.
- National Day – Romania**  
 Great Union Day is the national holiday of Romania, celebrating the unification of Romanian provinces (Transylvania with Romania).
- December 2**      **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – UN**  
 The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labor, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- National Day - Laos**  
 The establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 1975.
- December 3**      **International Day for Disables Persons - UN**
- December 5**      **Discovery Day – Haiti**  
 Marks the day Christopher Columbus found Haiti on his second voyage to the New World in 1492.
- International Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development - UN**  
 Recognizes the contributions of volunteers as first responders in times of crisis. Volunteers are present, all around us, answering calls in times of need, helping save lives today, and supporting those who want to continue living their lives with dignity tomorrow. 2017 Theme: Volunteers Act First. Here. Everywhere.
- December 6**      **St. Nicholas Day – Christian**  
 Celebrates the patron St. Nicholas of Russia, a Christian bishop from what is now Turkey, known for his good deeds. Being known as a protector of children, the tradition of leaving shoes out in the hopes of receiving treats is practiced in the Dutch, German, and Eastern European communities.
- Independence Day – Finland**  
 Celebrate Finland’s declaration of independence from the Russian Republic in 1917.
- Constitution Day – Spain**  
 The Constitution was originally ratified after a referendum on 6 December 1978 and was signed by King Juan Carlos I on 27 December 1978. The signing of the Constitution marked the culmination of the Spanish transition to democracy after the death of the former Head of State, Francisco Franco, in 1975.

- December 7 International Civil Aviation Day – UN**  
Helps generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of States, and of the unique role of ICAO in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.
- Pearl Harbor Day - USA**  
This day in 1941 commemorates the attack of the Imperial Japanese Navy and Air Force on the armed forces of the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing two thousand people. The attack brought the U.S. into World War II.
- December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Christian/Catholic**  
According to the Catholic Church, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without Original Sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.
- Bodhi Day – Buddhist**  
In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called “*Rohatsu*” and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a *Rohatsusesshin*, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.
- December 9 Independence Day – Tanzania**  
This day celebrates the end of British rule in Tanganyika in 1961.
- International Anti-corruption Day - UN**  
This day is observed to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively
- December 10 Human Rights Day – UN**  
Established in 1948 by the United Nations to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which sets forth basic rights and freedoms to which all are entitled.
- Constitution Day – Thailand**  
Celebrates the beginning of a Constitutional Monarchy in Thailand in 1932.
- December 11 International Mountain Day – UN**  
Covering around 22 percent of the earth’s land surface, mountains play a critical role in moving the world towards sustainable economic growth. They not only provide sustenance and wellbeing to 915 million mountain people around the world, representing 13 percent of global population, but mountains also indirectly benefit billions more living downstream. 2019 theme “Mountains Matter to Youth”.
- December 12 Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Mexico**  
The Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to Juan Diego, a Christianized Indian at Tepeyac Hill outside of Mexico City. She appeared three times on a site considered as a spiritual center by Mexican Indians. In one of the visions, the Virgin Mary told Diego to build a church on the site, in another vision she told Diego to pick some roses that were miraculously growing on the hill. He did, then he put them in his cloak and took them to the bishop. When Diego opened his cloak, the image of a dark-haired, brown skinned woman was imprinted on the inside of the cloak. The site where the roses were growing was renamed Guadalupe and the image on the cloak became known as *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* or “Our Lady of Guadalupe”.

- December 12**    **Jamhuri (Independence Day) – Kenya**  
Jamhuri is the Swahili word for “republic”, this date marks Kenya’s establishment date as a republic in 1964.
- Masá’il (15<sup>th</sup> month) – Bahá’i**
- December 13**    **Aga Khan’s Birthday – Islam Ismaili**  
Religious head of the Ismaili sect.
- Luciadagen/St. Lucia Day – Sweden**  
St. Lucia, the “Queen of Light” is celebrated on this day and a candlestick parade takes place in her honor.
- December 15**    **Bill of Rights Day – USA**  
The first ten amendments to the United States Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. Among the rights protected are freedom of speech, the right to bear arms and protection from unreasonable search.
- Navidades – Puerto Rico**  
Marks the beginning of the Christmas season and ends with Three Kings Day on January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- December 16**    **Las Posadas – Mexico (December 16-24)**  
A nine-day traditional Mexican festival celebration. Processions of pilgrims go door to door asking posada, which means shelter commemorating the search by Mary and Joseph for shelter.
- Bijoy Dibash – Bangladesh**  
Signifies independence after a 9-month Liberation War against Pakistan in 1971. East Pakistan became Bangladesh.
- December 17**    **National Day – Bhutan**  
In commemoration of the day in 1907 when Gongsar Wangchuk was crowned the first king over a united Bhutan.
- December 18**    **International Migrants day- UN**  
The UN recognizes the contributions and celebrate the vitality of the world’s 258 million migrants.
- Independence Day – Qatar**  
Unification of Qatar in 1878.
- December 20**    **International Human Solidary Day - UN**  
Celebrates unity in diversity. It also aims to remind people on the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty.
- December 21**    **Winter Solstice – International**  
In the Northern Hemisphere, this day is the official start of winter. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is official start of summer. Between the equator and the Arctic Circle, the sun rises and sets farthest south on the horizon for the year and the period of daylight is at its shortest (12 hours, 8 minutes) at the equator, decreasing to zero at the Arctic Circle.

- December 21 Yule – Wicca**  
 During the winter solstice – the longest night of the year - the rebirth of the sun which is life sustaining is celebrated. The Yule tree is decorated with fruit and candles are lit to represent the sun.
- Tohji-Tasai – Shinto**  
 The sun is of central importance in Japan and this day celebrates the end of the Yin period of the sun in its declining strength and the growing power of the Yang period.
- December 23 Hanukkah- Jewish (December 23-30)**  
 Begins previous sundown at 6:00 pm. The Festival of Lights is celebrated for eight days. Approximately in 164 B.C. Maccabees, a small group of Jews fighting for religious freedom won victory over the Syrians. The legend goes that to rededicate eighth temple, they found only one jar of holy oil and miraculously the candelabra remained lit for 8 days. The eight-candle menorah is lighted. Special readings and songs of praise focus on liberty and freedom.
- Joseph Smith’s Birthday - Mormon**  
 He was the American Mormon Leader, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
- Heisei Emperor’s Birthday – Japan**  
 This is the current Emperor’s birthday. His reign has been names Heisei (Succeed at Peace).
- December 24 Independence Day – Libya**  
 In 1951 when Libya declared its freedom from British-French “oversight”.
- December 25 Christmas Day – Christian**  
 This day celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago. Customs include lighting candles, exchanging gifts and using evergreen decorations to celebrate. This day is the most widely observed Christian festival of the year.
- Jinnah’s Birthday – Pakistan**  
 Mahomedali Jinnahbhai (12/25/1876-9/11/1648) was the founder of Pakistan.
- December 26 Kwanzaa – African-American, USA (December 26-January 1)**  
 A seven-day celebration started in 1966 to honor Americans of African ancestry. Kwanzaa means “fresh fruits of the harvest” in Swahili. Each day is dedicated to one of seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Families have African-style feasts and exchange gifts.
- Boxing Day – Canada, Ireland, UK**  
 It was once a day when the churches’ poor boxes were opened. In Britain, traditionally a day when gifts (boxes) are given to servants, tradespeople or others who have provided services.
- Death of the Prophet Zarathushtra – Zoroastrian**  
 Commemorates the death of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.
- Wren Day/St. Stephen’s Day – Ireland**  
 On Wren Day, boys in wren costumes go from house to house with a captured wren, singing songs and gathering coins. These coins help to pay for a big celebratory feast in the evening. St. Stephen is remembered for being the first Christian martyr.

- December 26 Junkanoo – Bahamas**  
A festival that combines elements of Mardi Gras, mummers' parades and ancient African tribal rituals. Continues on January 1.
- December 30 Rizal Day – Philippines**  
Celebrates the Philippines' national hero José Protasio Rizal Mercado y Alonso Realonda (Dr. José P. Rizal) on the anniversary of his death in 1896. Dr. Rizal was a very prominent advocate for reforms during the Spanish colonial era.
- December 31 New Year's Eve – International**  
Celebrates the coming New Year bidding a farewell to the departing year and celebrating the joy, hope, and peace for the year ahead.

**Omisoka – Japan**

To usher in the New Year, families clean their homes, eat toshi-koshi buckwheat noodles in the hope that one's life will be stretched out as long as these noodles. As midnight approaches, Shinto temples around the country begin ringing out the old year, sounding the temple bell 108 times because according to them, human beings have 108 worldly desires which are removed by striking the bell.

**Gahambar Maidyarem – Zoroastrian (Dec 31 – Jan 4)**

This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.

**Hogmanay – Scotland (December 31, 2019, 7:00 pm to January 1, 2019, 7:00 pm)**

The Scottish New Year, Hogmanay is derived from the French phrase meaning 'Lead to the mistletoe' Fire ceremonies, banging of pots and pans at midnight and bringing bread, salt and coal to their hosts to symbolize life, hospitality and warmth mark this exuberant occasion.

**Sharaf (16<sup>th</sup> Month) – Bahá i**

Source: With permission from Creative Cultural Communications, Multicultural Calendar 2019  
<http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html>.

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**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Fest will be held At Northtown Mall. All events are free and open to the public.** View the cultural trees on the first floor between Barnes and Noble and the Hallmark Store. Events are on the first floor near Kohl's store. The activities are listed below:

**Caroling Competition and Scandinavian Christmas at Northtown Mall**

Meet and greet representatives from the Scandinavian Community, live performances and cash prizes (1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> place) caroling contest winners.

**Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Feliz Navidad at Northtown Mall**

Find out why the Philippines and Mexico celebrate the holiday season starting in September and ending around January 6<sup>th</sup>, making it the longest Christmas celebration in the world.

**Date: Saturday, December 14, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

### **SantaCon and K-Pop at Northtown Mall**

Dress up, wearing a Santa hat alone is not enough. You don't have to dress like Santa, but the theme is red. Cash prizes for the top 3 plus swag bags for all contest participants.

**Date: Saturday, December 21, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

### **A Celebration of New Year Traditions at Northtown Mall**

See how various cultures ring in the new year. Meet and greet representatives from local cultural organizations, live performances, and sample holiday cookies from around the world.

**Date: Saturday, December 29, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

### **Kwanzaa Festival at Northtown Mall**

Kwanzaa is a week-long annual celebration held in the U.S. and other nations of the African diaspora in the Americas to honor African heritage in the African-American culture.

**Date: Sunday, December 29, 2019**

Time: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

For more information contact [charity@thefamilyguide.org](mailto:charity@thefamilyguide.org).

**2019 Kwanzaa Celebration** will be held near the Blue Zoo. Presentation includes music, dance, poetry, and history. For more information visit [www.wilburnassociates.org](http://www.wilburnassociates.org).

2019 Annual Kwanzaa Theme: Living Kwanzaa and the Seven Principles: An All Seasons Celebration and Practice of the Good.

### **Kwanzaa**

Kwanzaa (a celebration of family, community, and culture) is an African American holiday celebrated from December 26 to January 1. Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 after the Watts riots in which he wanted to bring together the African American communities. He is a professor and Chair of Africana Studies at California State University at Long Beach. Approximately 18 million African Americans celebrate Kwanzaa that honors the values of ancient African cultures.

Kwanzaa is taken from the phrase “matunda ya kwanza” which means “first fruits of the harvest” in Swahili and is based on the year-end harvest festivals that takes place throughout Africa. The Swahili language is used as it is used by various peoples throughout Africa. While each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, celebrations often include songs, drumming, and dances; storytelling; poetry reading; and a large traditional meal/feast held on December 31 to celebrate Karamu a traditional African holiday.

Three colors are used to celebrate Kwanzaa, black as this is the color of the people, green for the fertile lands of Africa, and red for the bloodshed in the struggle for freedom. These colors are in the Bendera, the African flag. The candles used to celebrate Kwanzaa are placed in a special candleholder called Kinara, and the candles used are black, green, and red. On each day of Kwanzaa a new candle is lit as a symbol of the Kwanzaa principle (nguzo) of that day. The candles are lit in alternating colors. The black candle (in the middle) is lit first, then the farthest left red candle, then the farthest right green candle, then the next red, then next green, then the last red, and then the final green.

There are seven principles (Nguzo Saba) celebrated over the seven days along with seven symbols:

#### **Seven Principles (Nguzo Saba):**

Unity (Umoja) – to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, national and race

Self-determination (Kujichagulia) – to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves

Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima) – to build and maintain our community together and make our brother’s and sister’s problems our problems and to solve them together

Cooperative Economics (Ujamaa) – to build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together

Purpose (Nia) – to make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness

Creativity (Kuumba) – to do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it

Faith (Imani) – to believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle

**Seven Symbols (*Nguzo Sabsa*) emphasizes a different principle:**

Unity cup (Kikombe Cha Umoja) –drinking from the cup is in honor of their African ancestors

Candleholder that holds seven candles (Kinara) – symbolizes stalks of corn that branch off to form new stalks

Fruits, nuts, and vegetables (Mazao) – reminds us of the harvest fruits that nourish the people of Africa

Seven candles that represent the seven principles (Mishumaa Saba) – a different candle is lit each day; three green candles are on the right; three red candles are on the left; and the middle candle is black

Place Mat (Mkeka) – Kwanzaa symbols are arranged on a mat, made of straw or African cloth

Ear of corn (Vibunzi/Muhindi-plural) – traditionally one ear of corn is placed on the mat for each child present

Gifts (Zawadi) – traditionally, on the last day of Kwanzaa January 1, educational and cultural gifts are given to children

Sources:

<http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/index.shtml>

<http://www.history.com/topics/kwanzaa-history>

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/kwanzaa1.html>

Below is a list of children’s books about Kwanzaa:

***My First Kwanzaa*** (11/2003) by Karen Katz (author and illustrator)

***Together for Kwanzaa*** (8/2000) by Juwanda G. Ford, illustrated by Shelly Hehenberger

***Celebrating Kwanzaa (12/2005)*** by Diana Hoyt-Goldsmith, photographer Lawrence Migdale

***Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story*** (9/2000) by Angela Shelf Medearis, illustrated by Daniel Minter

***The Gifts of Kwanzaa*** (1/1994) by Synthia Saint James

***Seven Candles for Kwanzaa*** (1993) by Andrea Davis Pinkey, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

***K is for Kwanzaa*** (10/1977) by Juwanda G. Ford

***Kwanzaa Kids*** (9/2002) by Joan Holub, illustrated by Ken Wilson

***Kwanzaa Fun*** (9/1996) by Linda Robertson, illustrated by Julia Pearson

***The Story of Kwanzaa*** (9/1997) by Donna L. Washington, illustrated by Stephen Taylor

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/kwanzaa>